



BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1913.

ALEX. GREGOR, M.D., M.O.H., S.M.O.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Mayor and Corporation.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Sixth Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1913.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District: Water Supply.

This still continues in a very satisfactory condition, the supply being ample for all purposes. The last report was as follows :—*Bacteriological*—“The water is of good bacteriological quality, quite safe for drinking and domestic purposes.” *Chemical*—“The water from the chemical analysis is an excellent one, quite suitable for drinking and domestic use, showing no sign of pollution.”

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new Gellyngvase outfall is now working well, practically the whole of the sludge being dissolved by the septic action in the tanks. Sixty-five houses have been added to this system during the past year. There are still many complaints by the public in regard to the outfalls into the harbour. The foreshores were periodically scavenged and a total of 280 tons of sludge removed by barge.

The main sewers were flushed during the summer months.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of the block of Railway Cottages all the sewage of the town is water carried. New closets were provided, either as additions or to take the place of defective ones, in 29 houses. The accommodation at Railway Cottages was on the pit and privy system and was a continual source of nuisance. During the past year this was converted into the pail system, which is dealt with

three times weekly. This system works very well and has abated a nuisance of many years' standing.

Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse.

During the past year an improvement has been noted in the scavenging of the streets, especially during the summer months. Full use was made of the tar sprayer, all the principal streets being treated. This reduced the dust nuisance to a very great extent and added much to the comfort of the inhabitants. The courts and yards received special attention during the summer months, being daily cleansed and the gullies disinfected by a special staff. A special effort was made to keep flies from breeding in the stable yards. They were specially visited and kept constantly under observation during the whole summer. The contents were emptied every week and the walls lime-washed. The owners heartily co-operated in this work.

HOUSE REFUSE.—2,544 tons of refuse have been collected and conveyed to the destructor. The work is carried out by contract and there are still a good many complaints received as to inefficiency. The committee have, however, the matter under consideration and it is hoped that a scheme will be devised, soon, to overcome the difficulties. The number of houses provided with covered ashbins is slowly increasing, 40 more being added this year.

The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows :—

Number of Visits of Inspection	1,031
Number of Nuisances Discovered	93
Number of Notices served by Sanitary Inspector	232
Number of Notices served by Surveyor (under P.H.A.A.A., '07)	1
Number of Notices complied with	233
Number of Complaints received and dealt with (mostly in regard to house refuse collection)	120
Number of Visits to Stable Yards	36
Number of New W.C.'s provided	29
Number of Privies and Pits converted to Pails	18
Number of New Interceptors fixed	40
Number of Badly-paved Yards repaired	24
Number of Rooms disinfected	66
Number of Schools disinfected	8
Number of Samples of Water taken for Analysis	2
Number of Inspections of Cowsheds	12
Number of Inspections of Dairies	8
Number of Inspections of Milkshops	22
Number of Inspections of Bakers' Shops	36
Number of Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Work Places	172
Number of Defects found and remedied	2

There is only one offensive trade carried on, namely,

tripe boiling. The premises were periodically visited and no cause for complaint was found.

Schools.

These were visited periodically during the routine of medical inspection, 37 visits in all having been paid. With the exception of the National Schools, which are at present under review by the Board of Education, the sanitary conditions of the rest, are, on a whole, fairly satisfactory. The work of the Sanitary Authority, the Education Authority and the various charitable institutions in the town have now been thoroughly co-ordinated and these are working harmoniously together.

Food.

The cowsheds have been reduced to six in number and these were visited and found in good condition. There are 4 dairies and 22 milkshops on the register which were periodically visited, and the owners instructed as to how milk should be kept. These instructions are, however, not always followed, with the result that much of the milk that finds its way to the consumer is far below what the standard ought to be. Most of the milk consumed in the town is imported from the country, over which the Authority has little or no power, and until the law governing the supply of this commodity is drastically amended, the whole country will be and is flooded with contaminated milk. There is one slaughterhouse, which is always found in good condition. There were no seizures of unsound food. There are 22 bakehouses and these were supervised and found all in excellent condition, all requirements for their cleanliness being carried out by the owners.

Under the sale of Food and Drugs Act the Superintendent of Police has kindly furnished me with the following statement of the number of analyses made during the year :

	Number.	Pure.	Adulterated.
Milk ..	5	4	1
Butter ..	1	1	
Margarine ..	1	1	
Vinegar ..	1	1	
Saffron ..	1	1	
Whiskey ..	1	1	
Brandy ..	1	1	
Total	11	10	1

The milkseller was prosecuted and convicted.

Housing.

The number of new houses built and occupied during the past year was 38, divided as follows :—

In the residential part	20
For Artizans	14
For Sanitary Authority (Workmen's Dwellings Scheme)	4
	—
	38

The workmen's dwellings scheme is being pushed rapidly forward and four of the houses were completed and occupied by the end of the year. No difficulty is being experienced in securing tenants. A summary of the work done under the Town Planning Act is given below and the most prominent fact brought out during the inspection was that 35% of the houses were kept in a dirty condition by the tenants. Deficient circulation of air amounted to 30%, and the light was bad in 26% of the houses inspected.

Number of houses inspected	163
Number of those tenements	16
Average number of inhabitants per house	4.31
Water supply good in all.	
W.c. accommodation { Insufficient or bad	26
Good	137

NOTE.—In 8 houses the w.c.'s were more than 30 feet from the door.

Drainage { Bad	1
Fair	20
Good	142
Light { Bad	6
Fair	37
Good	126
Free circulation of air { Bad	44
Fair	6
Good	113
Dampness observed in	16
Cleanliness { Bad	3
Fair	55
Good	105
Number of yards ill-paved	41
Houses built with back wall to country	5
Houses closed after notice (Sec. 17)	4
Houses demolished	0
Houses closed voluntarily	4
Houses which landlord has agreed to close	2
Houses scheduled to be closed	9
Number of formal notices sent	17
Number complied with	5
Number in suspense	12
Number of informal notices sent	31
Number complied with	23
Number in suspense	8

Three cases of overcrowding were dealt with and remedied.

Acute Infectious Diseases.

The cases reported were :—

	Number.	Rate per 1000 of population.		Rate per 1000 of population in England and Wales, 1912.
Diphtheria ..	2	..	.14	..
Erysipelas ..	2	..	.14	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	.07	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	.07	..
Scarlet Fever	23	..	1.70	..
Total	29		2.12	2.98

Compare the last five years :—

1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
19	19	24	20	23

Thus the infectious disease rate, though slightly higher than last year, is still very satisfactory and much below the average for the country and county, which latter was 3.81 for the year. The chief increase was due to a very mild form of scarlet fever, which was traced to an unrecognised case imported. In fact, had it not been for the prompt action of some of the teachers in the elementary schools in recognising the cases, which were in the peeling stage and immediately reporting them, the epidemic would have been of a more widespread character. The cases of diphtheria could not be traced. All contacts, with two exceptions, and those refused, were treated with prophylactic doses of anti-toxin and no further cases occurred. The case of poliomyelitis was a mild one and recovered completely. The origin of this case could not be traced.

Three cases were removed to the isolation hospital, namely, diphtheria, one; scarlet fever, one; enteric fever, one; and all recovered. The accommodation at the isolation hospital is ample for the needs of the town. The building has been completely repaired and renovated.

The number of pathological specimens examined were :—

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ..	..	2	..	4 .. 6
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	1 ..	2
Sputum for Tubercl				
Bacilli ..	..	6	..	8 .. 14
Total ..		9		13 .. 22

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.

The deaths were :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	7
Tubercular Meningitis ..	..	..	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	..	..	3
Total .. .. ..	..	..	11

This gives a death rate from Phthisis of ·52 per 1,000, which shows a steady decline.

1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
·10	·84	·83	·68

Total tubercular death rate ·80, as compared with 1·06 last year.

The examination of sputum for the detection of the tubercle bacillus was begun in January, 1913, and, as will be seen above, 14 specimens were sent in. On receipt of primary notification for pulmonary tuberculosis 13 visits and 21 subsequent visits were made. Instruction cards were handed to the patients and sputum flasks were given in two cases. No arrangements have as yet been made for the examination of contacts, nor for utilizing the services of the tuberculosis officer or nurses, pending the establishment of a dispensary in Falmouth, by the County Authority.

Number of rooms disinfected after occupation by phthisis patients	17
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VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

Number of births registered was :—

Males	117
Females	118
Total	235

This gives a birth rate of 17·46 per 1,000, which is a slight increase on last year, but again much below the average for the county and country, which are 19·66 and 23·9 respectively.

1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
22·39	20·44	20·78	17·84	17·43

Deaths.

The total deaths registered in the district were 177, giving a crude death rate of 13·15 per 1,000.

Deaths of non-residents	10
Deaths of residents occurring away and transferred to	16

Nett deaths on which rates are calculated are :—

Males	83
Females	100

The nett deaths belonging to the district are therefore 183, which gives an actual death rate of 13·52. The average for England and Wales is 13·4. Compare the previous five years :—

1908.	1909	1910.	1911.	1912.
15·09	14·84	15·26	16·21	13·77

Natural increase :—

Total Births	236
Total Deaths	183
Natural increase	52

Table for the last five years :—

1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
43	92.	66.	31.	48.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year was 22, giving a rate of 93·61 per 1,000 births.

Rate for the previous five years :—

1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
87·12	87·13	87·71	175·21	57·77

Zymotic Death Rate.

	Rate per 1,000 of Population.					
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	·07
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..	·07
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	6	..	..	..	..	·44
Total	8	..	..	..	..	·58

The case of enteric fever occurred at sea and the body

was brought ashore, so that the corrected rate for the Borough is .51.

Rate for the previous five years :—

1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
.101	.42	.42	.05	.59

General Survey.

On the whole the general health of the Borough shows a steady improvement. The birth rate remains steady at a very low rate. The death rate is slightly lower than last year and compares well with the country generally.

The infantile mortality is high as compared with last year, but this is entirely accounted for by the high rate for infants under one week and born prematurely. The total number of deaths due to this cause along with atrophy and debility amounted to nine, as compared with 5, 4 and 3 in the previous three years. It is gratifying to note that only two deaths were due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis, notwithstanding the fact that the weather of the past summer was highly favourable to the incidence of this disease owing to the long droughts experienced. I repeat again that I have no doubt that this is in a large measure due to the teaching and the work done voluntarily by the ladies in the School for Mothers, which is still carrying on a vigorous educative campaign among the poor without throwing doles at them.

The record in regard to infectious disease is still a very satisfactory one, the disease rate being far below the average of the county and country generally. The cases of Scarlet Fever, being of such a mild type, have been very difficult to deal with, many of the cases being discovered in the peeling stage. My best thanks are due to my colleagues for prompt notification and assistance in preventing its spread, and also to the teachers who discovered the cases in school and sent the sufferers home.

In regard to the Anti-toxin Order, I am convinced that its adoption has been of inestimable benefit to the community. Ever since its adoption in the Borough, no second case has occurred in the same house.

The outstanding event of the year was the inquiry of the Local Government Board in regard to the scheme for Workmen's Dwellings. The scheme was approved of and

is being rapidly pushed forward, four of the cottages being occupied by the end of the year.

I regret to note again the want of cleanliness in many of the houses inspected under the Town Planning Act. It is to be hoped, now the authority has taken the housing question seriously in hand, that the people will realise their sense of responsibility, which has been and is still lacking in many of the elementary principles of hygiene, and the first of these is cleanliness in the home.

I have to thank the Sanitary Committee for their kindness and courtesy to me in the discharge of my duties and for the keen interest they always maintain in the public health of the town.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX GREGOR, M.D.

Table I.

BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH.

**VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.**

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Uncorrected Number.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANS- FERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
			Number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents regis- tered in the District.	Of Residents not regis- tered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.	At all Ages.	Number.
1908	11,789	264	22·3	178	15·09			23	87·1		
1909	11,789	241	20·44	182	15·43			21	87·13		
1910	11,789	245	20·78	184	15·6			21	85·71	183	15·5
1911	13,136	234	17·8	228	17·35	25	10	41	175·21	213	16·21
1912	13,136	225	17·43	178	13·55	12	15	13	57·77	181	13·77
1913	13,458	234	235	17·46	177	13·15	10	16	93·61	183	13·52

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 857.

Total Population at all ages, 13,458.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,565.

Average Number of Persons per House, 5·2.

Table II.
BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages—Years.								
At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
Small Pox ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera(C) Plague(P)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	23	...	2	17	3	1	...	...	1
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis 15	...	...	...	4	10	1	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis 12	1	...	4	4	3	...	...	...	...
Totals	56	1	3	22	11	15	4	...	3

Isolation Hospital—FALMOUTH ISOLATION HOSPITAL, KERGILLIACK.
 Total number of beds, 8.

Table III.

BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1913.

	CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								Total Deaths whether of Residents or non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
		ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	
All Causes {	Certified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	4	...
Rheumatic Fever	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	18	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	12	...
Bronchitis	13	1	...	...	...	...	1	4	7	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	1	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	5	...
Puerperal Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	2
Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	71	4	1	...	2	1	7	9	47	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
	183	22	4	1	4	9	27	37	79	10

Table IV.
BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
	Certified.	Uncertified.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes	{	
Small Pox
Chicken Pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	1	...	...	1
Enteritis	1	...	...	1
Gastritis	1	...	...	1	2
Syphilis	1	...	...	1
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at birth
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations
Premature birth	...	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	4	...	...	4	...	2	1	1	8	8
Other Causes
			9	...	...	1	10	2	6	1	3	22

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 225; Illegitimate, 10.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 18;
Illegitimate Infants, 4.

